

## **November 2010 Issue Development Challenges, South-South Solutions**

### **1) African Health Data Revolution**

A pioneering tool for gathering health data now being used in Kenya could herald a revolution in the way diseases are tracked and defeated around the world. It uses mobile phones to better connect patients with medical and health personnel, and allows data to be gathered in real-time and used to track health and improve the delivery of services, especially to remote and under-serviced areas.

In the past couple of years, Kenya has become a hotbed of mobile phone and information technology innovation. The now-famous Ushahidi crisis-mapping platform ([www.usahidi.com](http://www.usahidi.com)) is just one example. Social enterprise Data Dyne ([www.datadyne.org](http://www.datadyne.org)) – with offices in Washington DC and Nairobi, Kenya – is offering its EpiSurveyor application ([www.episurveyor.org](http://www.episurveyor.org)) free to all to aid health data collection. It bills itself as "the first cloud-computing application for international development and global health ... Think of it as like Gmail, but for data collection!"

EpiSurveyor claims to have more than 2,600 users around the world and is currently being upgraded to a second version.

"With the touch of a button I can see what's going on across the country in real time," Kenyan civil servant Yusuf Ibrahim told Britain's Daily Telegraph newspaper. "It is amazing."

Ibrahim works in Nairobi as the Kenyan Ministry of Health liaison to Data Dyne.

He uses maps and charts on mobile phones to track deadly disease outbreaks and vulnerable pregnancies.

The EpiSurveyor application works simply: A user logs into the website and builds and creates the sort of form they want. They then download it to a phone and start collecting data straight away.

Ibrahim gathers this data from mobile phones used by health care workers across the country.

"It used to take days, weeks or even a couple of months to find out about an outbreak of polio on the other side of the country," he said. "Now we know almost instantly. The speed with which we can now collect information has catapulted healthcare and prevention to another level. It has completely changed healthcare and saved countless lives."

He proudly points out Kenya's mobile phone data collection system is "probably better than what they've got in the West."

"Although we are a third world country, I'm pretty sure we've done this before

Western countries. While they are still collecting information in hard copy on clipboards, we are getting it instantly."

Packed with data processing power, mobile phones are capable of an immense range of tasks and applications. Some see phones as key to a revolution in how healthcare is provided: the mobile phone becomes one-part clinic, another part mobile hospital dispensing advice and transmitting vital information back to healthcare professionals and scientists in hospitals and labs.

Despite dramatic improvements to the quality of hospitals in Africa and the number of qualified doctors, the continent's healthcare services are still a patchwork, with rural and slum dwellers poorly served and the stresses of treating patients with contagious diseases like HIV/AIDS and malaria pushing resources to the limit.

The United Nations has a number of initiatives partnering with mobile phone manufacturers, networks and software developers as part of a global campaign to reduce HIV/AIDS, malaria and deaths in childbirth.

EpiSurveyor is being used by more than 15 countries' ministries of health and is the adopted standard for the World Health Organization ([www.who.int](http://www.who.int)) (WHO) for electronic health data collection.

It began as a partnership with the United Nations Foundation, The Vodafone Group Foundation, WHO and the ministries of health of Kenya and Zambia in 2006 to pilot test the software for EpiSurveyor.

At the United Nations Foundation ([www.unfoundation.org](http://www.unfoundation.org)), chief executive Kathy Calvin equates the impact of mobile phones on global healthcare to the discovery of the antibiotic penicillin.

"Instead of building clinics and roads to remote towns and villages so that people can access healthcare, we are bringing healthcare directly to the people via mobile phones. You get a lot more healthcare for your money," Calvin told the Telegraph.

## **LINKS:**

1) Mobile Phone Bootcamp: The Entrepreneurial Programming and Research on Mobiles is designing SMS services in Kenya. **Website:** <http://www.media.mit.edu/ventures/EPROM/entrepreneurship.html>

2) Afridoctor: South Africa's Afridoctor (<http://twitter.com/afridoctor>) mobile phone application claims to be Africa's first personal mobile health clinic. **Website:** <http://store.ovi.com/content/21563/reviews>

3) mPedigree uses cell phones to build networks to tackle and identify counterfeit drugs. **Website:** <http://mpedigree.net/>

4) iStethoscope: An application for the iPhone that turns the phone into an electronic stethoscope. Downloaded already by over 3 million doctors around the world, and is being praised for how it helps doctors in remote regions.

**Website:** <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/istethoscope-pro/id322110006?mt=8>

## **2) African Megacity Makeovers Tackle Rising Populations**

Nigeria's largest, busiest and most congested city, Lagos, has long had a reputation for dynamism mixed with chaos. Its sprawling slums and ballooning population have for decades stretched governments' ability to provide services.

The 2006 census placed the city's population at close to 8 million, making it the most populous city in the country and the second largest in Africa after Cairo. One forecast saw the population reaching 23 million by 2015. It was called the fastest growing city in Africa by UNHABITAT (2008). The city is Nigeria's economic and financial hub and critical to the country's future.

According to a report by the International Institute for Environment and Development, Africa now has a larger urban population than North America and 25 of the world's fastest growing big cities. Getting to grips with urban development will be critical for the future of the continent and the wellbeing of its people.

In West Africa, an OECD study found the area stretching along the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean had a network of 300 cities larger than 100,000 people and the biggest collection of urban poverty on the planet.

It is a common problem across the South as fast-growing city populations surge past the ability of institutions and infrastructure to cope.

By 2025, Asia could have 10 or more cities with populations larger than 20 million (Far Eastern Economic Review).

It is a development challenge that urgently needs solutions.

In Lagos, the Oluwole district – formerly a crime-plagued slum – has been transformed into a new marketplace, and the plan is to follow this with new offices, homes and shops. The brainchild of the Lagos state governor Babatunde Fashola ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babatunde\\_Fashola](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babatunde_Fashola)), redevelopment of the 20,000 square metre site is part of his multi-stage plan to bring more order to the chaos that is daily life in Lagos. There are also ambitious plans afoot to build new roads and bridges. The area's traffic congestion is also being targeted for solutions. The former slum is now re-branded as the Oluwole Urban Market and Multifunctional City Centre (<http://tinyurl.com/2wmrscq>) and is being re-developed in partnership with the private sector.

The re-developed slum is part of the much-larger Lagos Island Central Business District (CBD) Revitalisation/Marina City Project, a five-year project,

jointly executed by the Lagos government and private sector players. This project has already begun with the redesigning and reconstruction of roads and infrastructure within the CBD and the adjoining axes.

Another fast-growing African city is Addis Ababa. The capital of the East African nation of Ethiopia, it has been in the grip of a building boom for the past few years. But much of this building has been unplanned and, to many, is ugly. The current building boom's architectural legacy has been criticized for leaving buildings that are too hot for the climate and require expensive air conditioning systems. They also use imported cement and steel and are not earthquake-proof.

Addis Ababa ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Addis\\_Ababa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Addis_Ababa)) was founded in 1886 by Emperor Menelik II. It is now host to the African Union (<http://www.africa-union.org/>) and it is this important role that has architects advocating for a new approach to the city's development.

Addis is home to some of the highest density urban slums in the world, according to the UN. Some estimates place the population at of the city at 4.6 million people and that it could double by 2020. But its pattern is unusual for an African city. Dirk Hebel of Addis Ababa's architecture school (<http://www.eiabc.edu.et/managing-board/scientific-director.html>) told The Economist it defies the usual pattern of rich centre and poor periphery. Instead, because crime is low and the rich seem to tolerate the poor living among them, the slums are jammed between office buildings and flats in the wealthy parts of the city.

Architects favour smaller buildings that stay true to local stone and traditional guttering to collect the rain. Hebel believes turning local would cut building costs by a third and save on costly imports.

The architecture school has received funding from a technical institute in Zurich, Switzerland called ETH ([http://www.ethz.ch/index\\_EN](http://www.ethz.ch/index_EN)) to help develop new ideas.

Hebel and ETH's head, Marc Angelil, have written a book profiling the architectural styles of the city. The city has gone through various phases: during its Marxist period (1974-1991) government buildings mimicked the Soviet Union. During the Italian fascist occupation (1935-1941) they followed the styles favoured by Italian dictator Benito Mussolini. Political problems aside, the architects believe the Italians brought good planning, allowing streets to radiate out from landmark buildings.

The city is plagued – like so many in the South – by pollution and traffic gridlock. Growth is on projection to be so large by 2050, the country would need 20 new cities of 5 million people each to accommodate it (UN). This is an epic challenge requiring imaginative thinking and new ways.

**LINKS:**

1) Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and City Development, Addis Ababa University. **Website:** <http://www.eiabc.edu.et/>

2) *Cities of Change: Addis Ababa: Transformation Strategies for Urban Territories in the 21st Century* by Marc Angélil and Dirk Hebel. **Website:** <http://tinyurl.com/3ybzcqo>

3) *ArrivalCity: The Final Migration and Our Next World* by Doug Saunders. **Website:** [www.arrivalcity.net](http://www.arrivalcity.net)

4) A photo essay on Lagos from Time Magazine. **Website:** <http://www.time.com/time/photogallery/0,29307,1837378,00.html>

### 3) Ugandan Project Pioneers Transparent Development

A pioneering experiment in the community of Katine ([www.guardian.co.uk/katine](http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine)) in the East African nation of Uganda recently came to its official end. A unique three-year project to try and transform the development outcomes of this rural community, it pioneered a new model of communicating aid and development. Unusual transparency was used to show how things work – or don't – in development. The budgets, the reports and the evaluations are all available on the website. Britain's Guardian newspaper regularly covered the work, and two Ugandan journalists embedded in the community gave regular updates as well.

A rich resource of web content was built up over the three years. People were able to post their comments and criticisms on the website for all to see. Members of the community logged onto the website as well and gave their on-the-ground views. Development workers had to explain what they were doing and why.

Anthropologist Ben Jones wrote in The Guardian that Katine is "remarkable: for the first time, the complex reality of doing a development project has been brought to a wider audience."

Katine is a rural community of villages and home to 29,000 people. The Katine development project set out to focus on five aspects of deprivation: health, education, water and sanitation, livelihoods and governance.

It was launched in 2007, when The Guardian urged its readers to donate to support the project. The British bank Barclays pledged to match the donations up to £1 million (US\$1,619,229). The NGO Farm-Africa (<http://www.farmafrica.org.uk/>) provided expertise on agriculture and the project partnered with Amref (<http://uk.amref.org/>), a leading African health NGO.

Journalists, academics, development experts and NGOs tracked progress on the web and shared this with the general public.

The records show that the project spent a total of US \$3.72 million between 2007 and 2010. Administration in various forms used US \$968,166 while, US \$501,935 was spent on health projects, US \$650,866 on education and US \$577,997 on water and sanitation.

Accomplishments included a boost to safe water coverage from 42 percent to 69.6 percent, and the distribution of 7,000 malaria nets. A co-operative was set up to help sell surplus agricultural products from farmers and teach new skills to grow disease-resistant cassava. A culture of saving and investing was also introduced with the establishment of 150 village savings and loans associations. They charged a start up membership fee of 12 US cents. Villagers used small loans to start small businesses or to buy medicine. In one year, a total of £22, 482 (US \$36,401) was banked.

Along the three-year journey, tempers flared over the cost of a school's classrooms, and people vented their feelings regularly on the project website.

Beyond the donated inputs to the community, the issue of sustainability has taken more hard work. The community needed a better organizing structure and committees were established: village health teams, parent-teacher associations, water source committees, farmers' groups, parent-teacher associations, and village savings associations.

It wasn't just a legacy of poverty the community had to contend with: residents also were overcoming the disruption and trauma of decades of violence and instability. The Lord's Resistance Army had terrorised the population in 2003, for example.

With the relationship with The Guardian ending, Amref will continue to work for another year to strengthen the community structures to lock in the sustainability of the achievements.

This experience is an interesting one that could be copied across the South, with people sharing their recent experiences of development and how they overcame poverty.

#### **LINKS:**

1) Katine Project: Three years' worth of resources on the Katine project, including 60 videos, school resources, galleries and interactive guides.

**Website:** [www.guardian.co.uk/katine](http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine)

2) Millennium Villages: The Millennium Villages are proving that by fighting poverty at the village level through community-led development, rural Africa can achieve the Millennium Development Goals. **Website:**

<http://www.millenniumvillages.org/>

3) Ordos: The Inner Mongolian Chinese city for one million built in five years but sitting mostly empty. **Website:**

<http://www.time.com/time/photogallery/0,29307,1975397,00.html> or a video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0h7V3Twb-Qk>

#### **4) Mongolian Enterprises Target Healthy Urban Lifestyles**

In the Northeast Asian nation of Mongolia – landlocked between Russia and China – the traditional diet is based on the nomadic ways of its herders. Rich in meat and milk products, it is a diet that has evolved from the need to survive in a harsh climate doing hard physical labour – winter temperatures can drop below minus 50 degrees Celsius.

Social changes brought about by Mongolia's economic journey since embracing free markets and democracy in the early 1990s have led to a growing urban population. The capital, Ulaanbaatar, has seen its population balloon for a variety of reasons – from collapsing rural economies to environmental disasters to the need to find work and opportunities - and is estimated to be over a million, out of a national population of just 2.6 million (World Bank).

Mongolia is experiencing serious food security problems due to factors including economic inflation and weather-related disasters, and is also confronting problems common to many countries in the age of globalization. According to the World Diabetes Foundation, 10 percent of the population is at risk of the disease, which it calls a lurking catastrophe.

As the paper “Lessons from a small country about the global obesity crisis” by Kelly D. Brownell and Derek Yach notes: “Globalization changes many features of modern life, including diets. As trade changes, diets can become more secure (hunger becomes less of a problem), but the cheapening of calories, the reliance on imported food, and the influence of food marketing drive up consumption and drive down nutrient density. Obesity, diabetes, and other chronic diseases are not far behind.”

In response to these problems, increasing awareness of healthy lifestyles has led to some new business ventures in Ulaanbaatar. This past summer, saw the opening of an organic vegetarian restaurant and shop: the Organic Café Shop, reports Green Traveler Guides.

Started by business partner-sisters Bayarmaa Jarantai and Enkhmaa Jarantai with nephew Lkhagvasuren, the modest four-table restaurant and shop is a mini-revolution for a country as meat-loving as Mongolia. It serves up organic vegetarian meals and sells certified organic products. The spark of inspiration came when Bayarmaa read three books on the macrobiotic diet translated into Mongolian. The macrobiotic diet ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macrobiotic\\_diet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macrobiotic_diet)) avoids highly processed foods and uses grains, beans and vegetables as its staples.

The cafe's menu includes: vegetable salads (shredded cabbage, bell peppers, carrots and seasoning), stir-fried vegetables with tofu and asparagus soup, 10-grain soup, eggplant, and Mongolian vegetarian fried vegetables. Prices range between 2,500 Mongolian tugrug and 4,500 tugrug (US \$1.75 and US



\$3.00).

The vegetables are sourced locally from Mongolian farmers and gardeners and are chemical-free. While not officially certified as organic, they are effectively that.

The shop sells certified organic products from China. The products include rice, grains, sugars and jams. (Made-in-Mongolia organic produce is a business opportunity waiting to happen: so far there are no certified organic packaged-product producers in the country).

The sisters import the products from Lohao City (<http://www.lohaocity.com/eshow.asp>) organic food market in Beijing, China.

But despite the Organic Café Shop's good intentions, it is not immune to the country's food security issues: Bayarmaa admits to being puzzled about how she will be able to continue to source the fresh vegetables she needs during the harsh winter months. Ulaanbaatar is the coldest national capital in the world and fresh produce has to be imported at considerable expense.

Another enterprise promoting healthy living in Ulaanbaatar is the Ananda Café and Meditation Centre (<http://www.anandacenter.org/>), a vegetarian restaurant and yoga (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yoga>) centre. Yoga is the traditional physical and mental discipline from ancient India used to keep physically fit. It is a form of exercise that appeals to a wide age range and can be done pretty well anywhere.

The Ananda Centre offers courses in yoga and meditation, vegetarian cooking classes and nature retreats.

## **LINKS:**

1) Mongolian Food: Meat, milk and Mongolia: An article from the UNDP online magazine, Ger, published in the late 1990s. **Website:**

<http://mongoluls.net/ger/meatmilk.shtml>

2) Global Food Security Crisis: A joint UN website with frequent updates on the global food crisis and how to respond. **Website:** <http://www.un-foodsecurity.org/>

3) Ananda Yoga Centre: Part of the increasing awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle, this yoga and meditation centre is located in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. **Website:** <http://www.yogamongolia.org/>

## **Window on the World**

### **Books**

*Creative Ecologies: Where Thinking is a Proper Job* by John Howkins, Publisher: UQP. **Website:** <http://www.creativeeconomy.com/think.htm>



*The Global Crisis: The Path to the World Afterwards* by Frank Biancheri, Publisher: Anticipolis. **Website:** [http://www.anticipolis.eu/en\\_index.php](http://www.anticipolis.eu/en_index.php)

*The Age of Empathy: Nature's Lessons for a Kinder Society* by Frans de Waal, Publisher: Crown. **Website:** [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

*Arrival City* by Doug Saunders, Publisher: Pantheon. A third of humanity is on the move. History's largest migration is creating new urban spaces that are this century's focal points of conflict and change — centres of febrile settlement that will reshape our cities and reconfigure our economies. **Website:** <http://arrivalcity.net/>

*China: And the End of Poverty in Africa – Towards Mutual Benefit?* by Penny Davis, Publisher: Diakonia and the European Network on Debt and Development. **Website:** [http://www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats\\_New/Reports/Kinarapport\\_A4.pdf](http://www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats_New/Reports/Kinarapport_A4.pdf)

*Globalization and Competition: Why Some Emergent Countries Succeed while Others Fall Behind* by Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira, Publisher: Cambridge University Press. **Website:** [http://www.networkideas.org/book/jan2010/bk12\\_GACL.htm](http://www.networkideas.org/book/jan2010/bk12_GACL.htm)

*Tourism and Poverty Reduction: Pathways to Prosperity* by Jonathan Mitchell and Caroline Ashley, Publisher: Earthscan. **Website:** <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?TabId=92842&v=497073>

*State of the Field in Youth Enterprise, Employment, and Livelihoods Development* Publisher: Making Cents International. **Website:** <http://www.youthenterpriseconference.org>

*Urban World: A New Chapter in Urban Development* Publisher: UNHABITAT **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/31244004/Urban-World-A-New-Chapter-in-Urban-Development>

## **Papers and Reports**

*Information Economy Report 2010: ICTs, Enterprises and Poverty Alleviation* Publisher: UNCTAD. **Website:** <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/webflyer.asp?docid=13912&intltemID=2068&lang=1>

*State of China's Cities: 2010/2011: Better City, Better Life* Publisher: UNHABITAT. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/39882697/State-of-China-s-Cities-Report-2010-2011>

*Competitiveness and Private Sector Development: Egypt 2010* Publisher: OECD. **Website:** <http://www.oecdbookshop.org/oecd/display.asp?sf1=identifiers&st1=252010041P1&LANG=EN>

*Still our Common Interest: Commission for Africa Report 2010* Publisher: Commission for Africa **Website:** <http://www.commissionforafrica.info/2010-report>

*World Economic Outlook Update: Restoring Confidence without Harming Recovery* Publisher: IMF. **Website:** <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2010/update/02/index.htm>

*Trade and Development Report, 2010: Employment, Globalization and Development* Publisher: UNCTAD. **Website:** <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/webflyer.asp?docid=13740&intItemID=2068&lang=1>

*Empowering People and Transforming Society: The World Economic Forum's Technology Pioneers 2011* Publisher: World Economic Forum. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/35953976/Technology-Pioneers-2011>

*The Emerging Middle Class in Developing Countries* Publisher: OECD. **Website:** <http://www.oecdilibrary.org/oecd/content/workingpaper/5kmmp8lncrns-en> (PDF - 2.09 mb)

*The BRICSAM Countries and Changing World Economic Power: Scenarios to 2050* by Manmohan Agarwal, Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. Working Paper: Shifting Global Power. Africa and Mexico has the potential to change the balance of economic power in the world. This paper analyzes this potential building on developments in these economies over the past four decades in the context of the evolution of the world economy. **Website:** [http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper\\_39-web-1.pdf](http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_39-web-1.pdf)

*The Implications of China's Ascendancy for Africa* by Hany Besada, Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. Working Paper: Shifting Global Power. This paper examines the extent to which China's engagement with Africa has produced mutual benefits for both and whether Africa is reaping the necessary benefits required for poverty alleviation and economic development. **Website:** [http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper\\_40-web.pdf](http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_40-web.pdf)

*Europe-North Korea: Between Humanitarianism and Business?* Edited by Myungkyu Park, Bernhard Seliger and Sung-Jo Park, Publisher: LIT. **Website:** [www.gpic.nl/EU - North Korea book.pdf](http://www.gpic.nl/EU-North%20Korea%20book.pdf)

### **From the Web**

mDirectory: The mDirectory is the most comprehensive database of information on mobile tech for social change on the Web: case studies, mobile tools, research, and how-to guides. **Website:** <http://mobileactive.org/directory>

*Global Economic Decoupling Alive and Well* Emerging economies decouple from the US, come closer to Europe. **Website:** <http://www.marketoracle.co.uk/Article23670.html>

Global Development: Launched in September 2010, this new website from the Guardian newspaper will track progress on the MDGs, encourage debate on its blogs, offer a rich datastore collating datasets from around the world, and feature monthly podcasts and resources for schools. **Website:** [www.guardian.co.uk/global-development](http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development)

The Global Urbanist: News and analysis of cities around the world: planning, governance, economy, communities, environment, international. **Website:** [www.globalurbanist.com](http://www.globalurbanist.com)

ICT Update: A bimonthly printed bulletin, a web magazine, and an accompanying email newsletter that explores innovative uses of information technology in agriculture and rural development in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. **Website:** <http://ictupdate.cta.int/en/Regulars/Perspectives/%28issue%29/56>

Youth-Inclusive Financial Services (YFS-Link) Program website: The first space for financial services providers (FSPs) and youth-service organizations (YSOs) to gather, learn and share about youth-inclusive financial services. **Website:** [www.yfslink.org](http://www.yfslink.org)

*The Global Financial Crisis and Africa's "Immiserizing Wealth"* Research Brief, United Nations University, Number 1 2010. **Website:** [http://www.unu.edu/publications/briefs/policy-briefs/2010/UNU\\_ResearchBrief\\_10-01.pdf](http://www.unu.edu/publications/briefs/policy-briefs/2010/UNU_ResearchBrief_10-01.pdf)

*China now leading world out of recession, says OECD* Economic Surveys: China 2010. Already the world's second largest economy, China could well overtake the United States to become the leading producer of manufactured goods in the next five to seven years. **Website:** [http://www.oecd.org/document/7/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_34571\\_44495047\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_37443,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/7/0,3343,en_2649_34571_44495047_1_1_1_37443,00.html)

*Africa begins to make poverty history: US economists challenge conventional view that the continent is a basket case* **Website:** <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/mar/03/africa-makes-poverty-history>

*Triple Crisis Blog: Global Perspectives on Finance, Development and Environment* **Website:** <http://triplecrisis.com/>

*Where Western business sees 'risk', Chinese entrepreneurs see opportunity* by Dr Jing Gu. Dr Gu and her China based team from the China-Africa Business Council (CABC) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) have had direct access to private Chinese companies working in

Africa, including 100 in-depth interviews with Chinese firms and business associations and officials in both China and Africa. **Website:** <http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/news/where-western-business-sees-risk-chinese-entrepreneurs-see-opportunity>

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*Can China Save Western Economies From Collapse?* **Website:** <http://www.marketoracle.co.uk/Article19484.html>

## **2010**

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to [developmentchallenges@googlemail.com](mailto:developmentchallenges@googlemail.com)

## **November**

### **Global South-South Development Expo 2010**

Geneva, Switzerland (22-26 November 2010)

The GSSD Expo is not designed for the discussion of problems or the presentation of generalized scenarios and prescriptions for solving them. Rather, it is designed solely to enable developing countries and their development partners, including donor agencies, organizations of the United Nations system, and private-sector and civil society organizations to systematically and regularly showcase their evidence-based SSDs. These solutions are deeply rooted in and developed under historical, political, economic, social and geographical conditions specific to the SSDs-originating countries.

**Website:** <http://www.southsouthexpo.org/>

### **The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Green Awards for Excellence in Communicating Sustainability**

London, UK (25 November 2010)

The 5th Annual GLOBAL GREEN AWARDS™ for Excellence in Communicating Sustainability are the leading industry awards for marketing and communications showcasing best practice and effectiveness in communicating environmental issues creatively. The GLOBAL GREEN AWARDS™ recognises excellence in 16 categories ranging from Best Green Educational Project and Best Green Product Innovation to the Best Green Advertising Campaign Award. Entries are invited from all countries. The winners will be announced at a glittering green gala reception in London on 25th November at the Dairy presented by celebrity co-host Jo Wood.

**Website:** [www.greenawards.com](http://www.greenawards.com)

## **December**

### **Cancun Global Business Day: Building Bridges**

Cancun, Mexico (6 December 2010)

Cancún Global Business Day is the business event at the UN Climate Change Conferences. It is organized by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the International Chamber of Commerce. **Theme:** The day will focus on the concept of “building bridges” – increasing the dialogue

between business and government and within the global business community to deliver action and to prevent unacceptable climate change. The scale and urgency of the climate change demands new models of global governance. Business is ready to support policy makers to make the right decisions. These decisions must incentivise investment in technology to drive low-carbon growth. This year in Cancún there is a particular emphasis on supporting developing country business to improve their engagement and contribute to a global solution.

**Website:**

<http://www.wbcsd.org/templates/TemplateWBCSD6/layout.asp?type=p&MenuId=MTc2MA&doOpen=1&ClickMenu=LeftMenu>

**European Development Days**

Brussels, Belgium (6-7 December 2010)

Organised by the European Commission and the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, EDD is the leading European forum where the questions and issues about international development cooperation are debated.

**Website:** <http://www.eudevdays.eu/index.cfm>

**Global Metro Summit: Delivering the Next Economy**

Chicago, USA (7-8 December 2010)

The two-day conference will examine the changing economic landscape of cities and their metropolitan regions in the US and internationally, to understand how cities are responding to economic instability and how they are harnessing the potential of the green economy to create jobs and support growth. With the participation of civic leaders, at an urban and national scale, and the presentation of new research by the Brookings Institution and the London School of Economics, the conference will identify a road-map to create and sustain low-carbon, opportunity-rich and export-orientated urban economies in a liveable urban environment. Key themes will include the role of federal investment in city growth and competitiveness, state-of-the-art sustainable policies and the creation of green jobs that can deliver a lasting economy for over half the world's population who are now city dwellers.

**Website:** <http://www.urban-age.net/conferences/chicago/>

**Mobiles + Art + Activism**

New York, NY, USA (9 December 2010)

Hosted by MobileActive.org, Mobile Tech Salons are a regular gathering of people passionate about mobile technology for social change. Motto: We bring the beer and wine. You bring your projects, passions, tools, and conversation.

**Website:** <http://mobilesartactivism.eventbrite.com/%22>

**International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development**

London, UK (13-16 December 2010)

The conference is the latest in the series of highly successful international ICTD conferences held in Doha (2009), Bangalore (2007) and Berkeley (2006). It aims to provide a forum for researchers, practitioners and all those

with interests in the use of information and communication technologies in development practice to meet to discuss the latest research advances in the field. Building on the success of its predecessors, ICTD2010 will combine two days of plenary peer-reviewed paper sessions, with two days of workshops, panel sessions, discussion forums, demos and sessions in both Spanish and French. A particular feature will be the opportunity that it will provide for participatory involvement from people from a diversity of backgrounds. ICTD2010 is being hosted by the UNESCO Chair in ICT4D and the multidisciplinary ICT4D Research Centre at Royal Holloway, University of London's magnificent campus situated only 20 minutes from London's Heathrow airport.

**Website:** <http://www.ictd2010.org/>

### **NetSquared Camps**

#### Various locations and times

NetSquared Camps will bring people, tools, resources and projects together to help accelerate world-changing ideas. Check their website for a camp near you.

**Website:** <http://www.netsquared.org/>

## **2011**

### **Engineering Sustainability 2011 Innovation and the Triple Bottom Line**

Pittsburgh, PA, USA (10 - 12 April 2011)

Engineering Sustainability 2011 will bring together engineers and scientists from academia, government, industry, and non-profits to share results of cutting edge research and practice directed at development of environmentally sustainable buildings and infrastructure.

**Website:** <http://www.mascarocenter.pitt.edu/conference/>

### **African Programme on Rethinking Development Economics**

Johannesburg, South Africa (5-19 May 2011)

APORDE is a high-level training programme in development economics which aims to build capacity in economics and economic policy-making. The course will run for two weeks and consist of lectures and seminars taught by leading international and African economists.

**Website:** [http://networkideas.org/events/oct2010/aporde\\_call\\_2011.pdf](http://networkideas.org/events/oct2010/aporde_call_2011.pdf)

## **2012**

### **Earth Summit 2012: Towards a World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2012**

Rio, Brazil (TBC 2012)

The United Nations General Assembly agreed to a new Earth Summit in December. The Summit will be in 2012 and will be hosted by Brazil. The themes are the Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, the institutional framework for sustainable development, emerging issues and a review of present commitments. This site will keep you abreast of all the developments and latest news.

**Website:** <http://www.earthsummit2012.org/>

## **Awards**

### **The Wireless Innovation Project: Applications Now Open!**

The Vodafone Americas Foundation™ designed the Wireless Innovation Project™ as a competition to promote innovation and increase implementation of wireless related technology for a better world. To that end, Vodafone Americas Foundation's Wireless Innovation Project™ is providing up to \$600,000 in awards to support projects of exceptional promise

**Deadline:** 15 December 2010

**Website:** <http://www.project.vodafone-us.com/>

### **Philips Liveable Cities Award**

Philips is looking for individuals and community or non-government organizations and businesses with ideas for “simple solutions” that will improve people’s health and well-being in a city to enter the Philips Liveable Cities Award. To help translate these ideas into reality, three Award grants totalling €125,000 are on the line. One overall winning idea from any of the three categories outlined below will receive a grant of €75,000, while the two additional ideas will receive grants of €25,000.

**Website:** <http://www.because.philips.com/livable-cities-award/about-the-award>

### **2010 Africa Awards for Entrepreneurship**

The 2010 Legatum Africa Awards for Entrepreneurship are now open for entries from the very best small and medium-sized businesses from across 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The Grand Prize is US\$100,000 with a further five runners-up winning prizes of US\$50,000 each.

**Website:** [www.africaawards.com](http://www.africaawards.com)

### **African Economic Outlook**

A unique online tool that puts rigorous economic data, information and research on Africa at your fingertips. A few clicks gives access to comprehensive analyses of African economies, placed in their social and political contexts. This is the only place where African countries are examined through a common analytical framework, allowing you to compare economic prospects at the regional, sub-regional and country levels.

**Website:** [www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en](http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en)

### **Training Opportunities**

*Ongoing*

#### **Grameen Bank Microcredit Training Programs**

Grameen Bank, <http://www.grameen-info.org/training/>

### **Sustainable Tourism Criteria Announced**



The criteria focus on four areas experts recommend as the most critical aspects of sustainable tourism: maximizing tourism's social and economic benefits to local communities; reducing negative impacts on cultural heritage; reducing harm to local environments; and planning for sustainability. The GSTC Partnership is developing educational materials and technical tools to guide hotels and tour operators in implementing the criteria.

**Website:** [www.sustainableTourismCriteria.org](http://www.sustainableTourismCriteria.org)

### **Timbuktu Chronicles: A blog by Emeka Okafor**

With “a view of Africa and Africans with a focus on entrepreneurship, innovation, technology, practical remedies and other self-sustaining activities.”

**Website:** <http://timbuktuchronicles.blogspot.com/>

### **OECD: Tackling the economic crisis website**

The global economic crisis is entering a new phase amid signs of a return to positive growth in many countries. But unemployment is likely to remain high and much still needs to be done to underpin a durable recovery. This website will track the recovery.

**Website:**

[http://www.oecd.org/document/24/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_201185\\_41707672\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/24/0,3343,en_2649_201185_41707672_1_1_1_1,00.html)

### **The Grassroots Reporting Project**

One of our goals at AfriGadget ([www.afrigadget.com](http://www.afrigadget.com)) is to find more stories of African ingenuity. The Grassroots Reporting Project is our plan to find, equip and train more AfriGadget reporters in the field throughout Africa. AfriGadget's goal is to leverage the power of current and emerging technology such as video cameras, digital cameras, laptops and phones to bring quality content online and eventually on television. A combination of mobile phones and computers will be assigned to individuals in 10 African countries for the purpose of getting more on-the-ground reporting of stories of African ingenuity to the world. An AfriGadget editor will be in charge of identifying the best candidates for inclusion in the program. This editor will also travel to each country to train and equip the new AfriGadget reporters for the program.

This is possible by creating a network of field reporters who report on stories that meet the following criteria:

- Ingenious innovation that is new or a repurposing of existing technology in a new way.
- Interesting in the sense that the story captures the imagination of others, inspiring others to see solutions in uncommon ways.
- Practical ideas that solve problems in a demonstrable way.
- Entrepreneurs who are inventing new products or solutions.

**Website:** [www.afrigadget.com/](http://www.afrigadget.com/)

### **Global Knowledge Initiative**

The Global Knowledge Initiative seeks to build global knowledge partnerships between individuals and institutions of higher education and research. It seeks to help partners access the global knowledge, technology, and human resources needed to sustain growth and achieve prosperity for all."

**Website:** [www.globalknowledgeinitiative.org/](http://www.globalknowledgeinitiative.org/)

## **Jobs and Careers**

### **DevWire.eu - the Media Portal to EU Development Cooperation**

The idea behind this site is to support journalists in their EU development coverage. This single entry point provides a comprehensive source of news and background - relevant, up to date and reliable.

**Website:** <http://www.devwire.eu>

### **Evidence-Based Policy in Development Network**

This website aims to establish a worldwide community of practice for think tanks, policy research institutes and similar organisations working in international development, to promote more evidence-based, pro-poor development policies.

**Website:** <http://ebpdn.org>

### **ExportHelp - Promoting and supporting access to the European market**

The European Commission runs a database for the explicit support of market players in developing countries who want to bring their products to the EU market. The database gives an overview on the EU's preferential trade regimes established for developing countries as well as lists all tariffs, taxes and other requirements for goods imported into the EU.

**Website:** <http://exporthelp.europa.eu>

### **ilissAfrica - Africa Virtual Library on the Internet**

This web portal helps with tracking down relevant literature on a specific African topic or country. Users can search for books, anthologies, journal articles and Internet resources. Users are pointed to the relevant website or library where a book or journal can be found. The portal is a joint project of the University Library in Frankfurt and the GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies in Hamburg.

**Website:** <http://www.ilissafrika.de>

### **Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website**

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects. **Website:** [www.devex.org](http://www.devex.org)

### **Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans**

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, [Africancareerguidance.com](http://Africancareerguidance.com) is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on

the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

**Website:** [www.africacareerguidance.com](http://www.africacareerguidance.com)

### **African Diaspora Skills Database**

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

**Website:** [www.diaspora-centre.org/NEWSLETTER/Database](http://www.diaspora-centre.org/NEWSLETTER/Database)

### **Aid Workers Network (AWN)**

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

**Website:** [www.aidworkers.net](http://www.aidworkers.net)

### **Bizzlounge**

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

**Website:**

<http://bizzlounge.com>

### **Business Action for Africa**

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organisations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

**Website:** <http://businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com>

### **Business Fights Poverty**

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

**Website:** <http://businessfightspovetry.ning.com>

### **Business in Development Network (BiD)**

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in

developing countries.

**Website:** [www.bidnetwork.org](http://www.bidnetwork.org)

### **Zunia**

By Development Exchange, it offers news, publications and networking opportunities with the world's development community.

**Website:** [www.zunia.org](http://www.zunia.org)

### **Catalogue of Poverty Networks**

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organisations.

**Website:** [www.undp-povertycentre.org/povnet.do](http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/povnet.do)

### **Connections for Development (CfD)**

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organisation committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organisations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest – collectively "our world".

**Website:** [www.cfdnetwork.co.uk](http://www.cfdnetwork.co.uk)

### **Development Crossing**

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

**Website:** [www.developmentcrossing.com](http://www.developmentcrossing.com)

### **DevelopmentAid.org**

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

**Website:** [www.developmentaid.org](http://www.developmentaid.org)

### **dgCommunities on the Development Gateway (now Zunia.org)**

dgCommunities, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

**Website:** <http://topics.developmentgateway.org>

### **Diaspora African Forum**

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

**Website:** [www.diasporaafricanforum.org](http://www.diasporaafricanforum.org)

### **Eldis Communities**

Eldis aims to share the best in development, policy, practice and research. The Eldis Community is a free on-line community where you can meet others involved in international development and discuss the issues that are important to you.

**Website:** <http://community.eldis.org>

### **Enterprise Development Exchange**

The Enterprise Development Exchange links related communities of practice to advance sustainable poverty eradication. It is facilitated by The SEEP Network through the Value Initiative.

**Website:** <http://edexchange.seepnetwork.org>

### **Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum**

The FSN Forum is a global community of FSN practitioners. It bridges the knowledge divide among the different communities involved in FSN policies and strategies - such as academics, researchers and development practitioners - to improve cooperation and impacts; members in many countries across the world's five continents.

**Website:** <http://km.fao.org/fsn/>

### **Global Development Matters**

Global Development Matters is designed to engage U.S. citizens and leaders in examining how rich world policies affect global poverty reduction.

**Website:** [www.globaldevelopmentmatters.org](http://www.globaldevelopmentmatters.org)

### **GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development**

The GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development are open to all practitioners, counterparts, research institutions, donors and interested consultants worldwide facilitating an inter agency exchange of experiences and best practices. This weekly updated website provides you with recent news and lessons learned from GTZ as well as from other development agencies and research institutions in the field of economic development. Its core is a comprehensive database. Participation in this open community is free of charge. However, registration is necessary.

**Websites:** Africa: <http://www2.gtz.de/network/wiram-afrika/gtz-community/>

Middle East and North Africa: <http://www2.gtz.de/network/mena/open-community/>

Asia: <http://www2.gtz.de/assets-asia/gtz-community/>

**LED knowledge**

This website is an online space for sharing the experiences and resources of people and organizations supporting local economic development processes at the local level. LED Knowledge is the result of a joint effort of the ILO-LED programme team based in Geneva, and the ILO training arm, the International Training Centre, based in Turin, Italy.

**Website:** [www.ledknowledge.org](http://www.ledknowledge.org)

**Network of Networks Impact Evaluation Initiative (Nonie)**

Nonie is a network of networks for impact evaluation comprised of the DAC Evaluation Network, The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG), and a fourth network drawn from the regional evaluation associations. Its purpose is to foster a program of impact evaluation activities based on a common understanding of the meaning of impact evaluation and approaches to conducting impact evaluation.

**Website:** [www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/index.html](http://www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/index.html)

**TakingITGlobal.org**

TakingITGlobal.org is an online community that connects youth to find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action in their local and global communities.

**Website:** <http://profiles.takingitglobal.org>

**XING Group Microfinance Industry**

In this new XING Group, microfinance professionals from all over the globe link and discuss topics of interest. Use this forum to discuss financial technology, find employment, identify training opportunities and events, and share knowledge resources with fellow members of the microfinance industry. XING is an online networking tool to manage all personal contacts and to find interesting new business contacts. It's amazing how quickly it facilitates contact with key people.

**Website:** [www.xing.com/group-21391.0fc826/4466179](http://www.xing.com/group-21391.0fc826/4466179)

**AfDevinfo - African Development Information Service**

AfDevinfo tracks the mechanics of political and economic development across Sub Saharan Africa. They draw together a diverse range of publicly available data and present it as an accessible and ever expanding online database.

**Website:** [www.afdevinfo.com](http://www.afdevinfo.com)

**Growing Inclusive Markets (GIM)**

The Growing Inclusive Markets Initiative has created a set of data, information and analytical products that will increase understanding of the markets of the poor, including existing opportunities and challenges.

**Website:** [www.growinginclusivemarkets.org](http://www.growinginclusivemarkets.org)

**The Soul Beat**

The Soul Beat shares a selection of programme experiences, strategic thinking documents, and materials related to the use of mobile telephones for social change in Africa. If you would like your organisation's communication

work or research and resource documents to be featured on the Soul Beat Africa website and in The Soul Beat newsletters, please contact [soulbeat@comminit.com](mailto:soulbeat@comminit.com)

### **3D -> Trade - Human Rights - Equitable Economy**

3D promotes collaboration amongst trade, development and human rights professionals, to ensure that trade rules are developed and applied in ways that promote an equitable economy. 3D believes that the human rights framework provides strong tools for ensuring a more equitable economy.

**Website:** [www.3dthree.org/en/index.php](http://www.3dthree.org/en/index.php)

### **Business Planet: a new data map on Entrepreneurship**

Business Planet, an interactive Google map, now includes data on new business creation around the world. Measures of entrepreneurial activity are based on the number of total and newly registered corporations. Click on color markers to learn more about each country.

**Website:** <http://rru.worldbank.org/businessplanet/default.aspx?pid=8>

### **AiDA launches an Interactive Map**

AiDA is one of Development Gateway's aid management tools, which supports the aid effectiveness agenda by publishing information on development activities to help donors coordinate and harmonize their development efforts. With the use of an interactive map generated with technology from Google, development practitioners now have access to a geographical interface for information normally available through the AiDA Web site. Users can click on any country in the world and view a summary of the development activities that are taking place there.

**Website:** <http://aida.developmentgateway.org/aida/viewMap.do>

### **Trustive World-wide WiFi Access**

The reality of WiFi is usually a fragmented service with different hotspot operators having their own log in methods, billing systems and coverage restricted to certain countries or even cities. The Dutch provider Trustive decided to overcome these challenges in order to improve this reality for the whole Trustive community. Following 5 years of heavy investment and the conclusion of strong roaming agreements with 70+ hotspot operators in 65+ countries, Trustive is now able to offer a seamless service that is both reliable and competitively priced across a unified and ever expanding network of 65,000 WiFi hotspots in 65+ countries, including 350+ airports.

**Website:** <http://tinyurl.com/trustive>

### **Fellowship Opportunity**

#### **South-South Experience Exchange Facility**

Supported by Mexico, China, India, Denmark, Spain, The Netherlands, and the U.K. and now Colombia, the South-South Experience Exchange Facility is a multi donor trust fund that promotes the idea that developing countries can learn from the successes of other developing countries in overcoming similar challenges. In the past 12 months, the trust has given out 35 grants to



countries for learning activities ranging from working with at risk youth in the Caribbean to outsourcing IT services in Africa.

**Website:** [www.southsouthcases.info](http://www.southsouthcases.info)

### **Africa Entrepreneurship Platform**

This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally, driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

**Website:** [www.sacca.biz](http://www.sacca.biz)

### **Piramal Foundation in India**

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

**Website:** [www.piramalprize.org](http://www.piramalprize.org)

### **The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award**

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Five pioneers will receive US \$50,000 to re-invest in their business. It is open to for-profit businesses that provide high wages to their workers and that operate in sustainable ways.

**Website:** <http://pioneersofprosperity.org/index.php>

### **African Writers Fund**

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

**Website:**

[http://www.trustafrica.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=90&lang=fr](http://www.trustafrica.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=90&lang=fr)

### **Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme**

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

[Click here for more information](#)

or contact:

[namstct@vsnl.com](mailto:namstct@vsnl.com),

[namstct@bol.net.in](mailto:namstct@bol.net.in),

[apknam@gmail.com](mailto:apknam@gmail.com)

### **Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition**

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of £2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the 'world's first global youth development competition'.

**Website:** [www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/oba/se/ybd](http://www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/oba/se/ybd)

### **US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design**

AMD and Architecture for Humanity have announced a prize of \$250 000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

The Open Architecture Prize is the largest prize in the field of architecture and is designed to be a multi-year program that will draw competition from design teams around the world.

**Website:** [www.architectureforhumanity.org](http://www.architectureforhumanity.org)

### **PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana**

The University of Ghana ([www.ug.edu.gh](http://www.ug.edu.gh)) has been awarded a project support grant by the Alliance for a Green Revolution ([www.agra-alliance.org](http://www.agra-alliance.org)) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

**Website:** <http://www.acci.org.za/Default.asp?nav=Home&idno=10>

### **Institute of Social Studies in The Hague**

A collaboration between 25 international think tanks in international development, [www.focuss.info](http://www.focuss.info) is a search engine for indexing and social book marking online resources in international development.

### **Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition**

Is a social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

**Website:** <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in/>

### **Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund**

**Website:** [www.echoinggreen.org/](http://www.echoinggreen.org/)

### **Funding**

## **Commonwealth Teams up with Private Equity Firm to Deliver up to \$400 Million in Investment in Africa**

Small and medium enterprises across Africa are set to benefit from a multimillion dollar investment fund set up by private equity firm Aureos Capital (<http://www.aureos.com/>) with the Commonwealth Secretariat's assistance. The Aureos Africa Fund, launched in November following feasibility and due diligence studies funded by the Secretariat, will provide long-term capital and support for promising and successful businesses across the continent. Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Ransford Smith, speaking at the launch of the fund at the Marriot Hotel in London, UK, on 2 November 2009, hailed the fund's launch. He warned that investment in Africa was "critical" if recent development gains were not to be lost amid the current worldwide recession. "This fund has the potential to make a real contribution to Commonwealth countries in Africa, by helping ordinary businesses to reach their potential and boost much needed growth and jobs across the continent," he said.

### **Website:**

<http://www.thecommonwealth.org/news/215560/021109aureoscapital.htm>

## **The Africa Land Fund**

The fund has raised almost €2 billion from an American pension fund to invest in African agriculture. The Africa Land Fund, created by the UK-based hedge fund Emergent Asset Management, wants to raise a total of €3 billion and is canvassing a range of investors. It plans to invest in agricultural land and livestock, including African game, which will be sold on to private reserves and safari parks. The fund also plans to develop bio fuel crops on marginal land, saving prime agricultural acreage for crops to feed people.

**Email:** [info@eaml.net](mailto:info@eaml.net)

**Tel:** +44 (0) 1428 656 966

**Fax:** +44 (0) 1428 656 955

## **Google.org**

While SMEs in rich countries represent half of GDP, they are largely absent from the formal economies of developing countries. Today, there are trillions of investment dollars chasing returns – and SMEs are a potentially high impact, high return investment. However, only a trickle of this capital currently reaches SMEs in developing countries. Our goal is to increase this flow.

We want to show that SMEs can be profitable investments. We will do this by focusing on lowering transaction costs, deepening capital markets to increase liquidity, and catalyzing capital for investment.

**Website:** [www.google.org](http://www.google.org)

## **Challenge**

InnoCentive (<http://www.innocentive.com/>) is a challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable. It is an open marketplace where anybody

with a problem can post it, and rewards for effective solutions stretch up to US \$100,000. They use rigorous intellectual property protection so ideas are not stolen without credit being given to the inventor. You can read more about the challenges here:

[www.rockfound.org/about\\_us/news/2007/0720first\\_seeker.shtml](http://www.rockfound.org/about_us/news/2007/0720first_seeker.shtml)

### **Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship**

Offered by Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

**Website:** [www.socialledge.org](http://www.socialledge.org)

### **Job Opportunities**

#### **Business Fights Poverty**

Many job opportunities on their website:

<http://businessfightspoverty.ning.com/profiles/blog/list?q=job+opportunity>

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [Africa Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Christian Children's Fund](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [Find a Job in Africa](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [Organization for International Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(1\)](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(2\)](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [Trust Africa](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [UNESCO](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund \(Cameroon\)](#)

